

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last September, I toured Daniel Boone School in Chicago to see firsthand its overcrowded conditions. Boone School has an enrollment of 1,100 students, 300 more than the school can reasonably accommodate.

Classes were being held in hallways, and students were learning in make-shift classrooms like the teachers' lounge and cafeteria. Three different classes were being taught in the same room at the same time.

Last week, I returned to Boone School; and I am sad to report that nothing has changed. Classes are still being held in hallways and teachers' lounges. But what moved me most was the seventh grade girl who stood up and looked me in the eye and said, "You came last September, how come nothing is changed; and when will we see improvements in our school." That is a legitimate and tough question.

Boone School, however, is not alone. Eighty-nine percent of Illinois schools are in need of repair, rebuilding, or up-grade. How can we expect to deliver the best quality education to our students when they are learning about gravity from falling ceiling tiles. It is just unacceptable to send our children to 19th century schools when we go into the 21st century.

Yesterday, a study released by the NEA shows that it costs \$322 billion to repair and modernize American schools. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4094, America's Better Classroom Act of 2000.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT ACT

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the leadership for agreeing to bring the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act to the House floor before Mother's Day. This legislation is vital to provide treatment for low-income, uninsured working women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. Giving States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for these women if they are found to have cancer through the Center for Disease Control's early detection program will help save thousands of lives.

The program currently provides screening for breast cancer, but it does not provide funding for treatment options for these women. The harsh reality is they will die because they have no options. This must change.

The funding for H.R. 1070 was included in the budget resolution and has overwhelming support from my friends on both sides of the aisle with nearly 300 cosponsors.

Again, I want to thank the leadership for bringing this critical piece of legislation to the House floor before Mother's Day.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House and talk about an intolerable situation, that is, the abduction of 10,000 American children to foreign countries. I am asking my colleagues to focus on these children and to help pass legislation that will bring them home. Today I will tell the story of an American parent, Kenneth Roche, to illustrate the problem.

In 1991, a U.S. court granted Kenneth a divorce from his German wife, and granted both parents joint legal custody, with physical custody going to the mother and generous access rights for Kenneth. The court also ordered that the child must not be removed from Massachusetts unless authorized by the court.

In 1993, Kenneth's ex-wife took the child to Germany, and the United States issued an arrest warrant, granted him temporary custody, and ordered the immediate return of the child. Both a lower court and a higher court in Germany has ordered the return of the child, but the mother has refused to comply and the courts refused to enforce their own orders.

Kenneth Roche has not seen his child since 1993 and does not know where he is. Mr. Speaker, American parents and children should not be separated like this. The effects on both are painful and devastating. I ask this House to join me and help bring our children home.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO JACK AND NORMA QUINN

(Mr. QUINN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to take a personal prerogative of the House and ask the indulgence of my colleagues. I want to join other Quinn clan members from Buffalo and Hamburg and Blasdell, New York in honoring and wishing my parents, Jack and Norma Quinn, happy 50th anniversary this Saturday, May 6.

I have to be clear that I represent only five sons, five great daughter-in-laws, 13 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter, but I have a chance to do it here that they might not have. We offer congratulations of course and thanks.

Mr. Speaker, if I could quote the Chaplain this morning who said, "that we are a reflection of Your love in this world." I think I would want our parents to know that we, too, are a reflection of their love in this world.

We congratulate them on 50 years of wedded bliss and thank them for all the sacrifices they made for us.

CONGRESS MUST PASS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the Quinns.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the more than 53 million children across this country that right now are attending school in our Nation's classrooms. That is more students than at the height of the Baby Boom and there will be more next year.

Unfortunately, too many of our children are stuffed into trailers, closets, cramped bathrooms, overcrowded and substandard facilities. Our schools are literally bursting at the seams.

For more than 2 years, I tried to pass my school construction bill to provide tax credits to help local communities build quality schools for our children. But the Republican leadership has refused to allow this essential legislation to pass. The same Republican leadership that has tried to eliminate the Department of Education, slash school lunches, refuses to pass this modest bill to build just a few schools for our children.

This same leadership has constantly pushed private school vouchers, block grants, and even antipublic school bills that have suffered from time to time.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, a bipartisan group of Members have come together to support a common sense compromise to school construction legislation. The Johnson-Rangel bill will pay the interest on about \$24.8 billion worth of school construction bonds across this country. I urge my colleagues to support it.

EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk about education a little bit, because if one looks at the record on education, Republican versus Democrat leadership, it is not even close.

Republicans have put far more resources into education, far more flexibility for local teachers, far more money into the special Individuals with Disability Education Act, far more money into school lunch program.

I hope that some of these Democrats will actually read the bill. They will see if they want to measure their money. They have lost.

Now, this proposal to construct new schools is great if one is in Chicago or New York City where one has not kept up with one's education or here in Washington, D.C. where one's roofs are leaking. Do my colleagues know why? Because the cities and States have not made the investment into education.